



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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April 16, 2007

Dear Partner in Bird Conservation:

The Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative (ABCI) is pleased to announce the availability of State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds for bird conservation work, and hereby requests grant proposals.

Proposals should address specific priority actions as identified in the Arizona Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan (APIF Plan). The APIF Plan identifies priority species and habitats, and establishes objectives for bird populations and habitats in Arizona. It also delineates specific areas of concern for management, inventory/monitoring, research, and education that should be addressed in Arizona by land managers, wildlife managers, and scientists.

Proposals that address priority objectives of any of the four major bird initiatives (National Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan) and/or the regional joint venture plans (Sonoran and Intermountain West) may also be considered, when there's a demonstrable benefit to birds in the state of Arizona.

The following guidelines are important to consider when preparing your project application.

1. Projects should address a priority bird species and/or habitats, as provided in the APIF Plan (or secondarily, other existing initiatives), and must benefit birds in the state of Arizona. Preferred projects will focus on habitat restoration/enhancement and/or inventory/monitoring, although other categories will also be considered. Generally, projects should fall into the following basic categories:

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement: These projects should be conducted to benefit priority species and habitats.

Inventory and Monitoring: These projects should be conducted to determine current distribution and seasonal bird habitat associations and to evaluate the effects of land management actions on priority species. Projects that contribute to the Survey Design and Implementation of the Arizona Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program are also encouraged.

Research: These projects should be conducted to facilitate adaptive management to benefit priority species and habitats.



Education and Outreach: These projects should be conducted to benefit priority habitats or species, by promoting education/outreach activities and educational materials that heighten general public awareness of birds and their habitats.

2. Projects will be evaluated using several ranking factors as discussed in the Project Ranking Factors Sheet (page 1 of application package).
3. Funding source: State Wildlife Grant; funding amount: \$140,000.00 (subject to funds availability). Multiple awards may be made.
4. Proposals must be received by Monday, June 18, 2007. Project Application must be sent electronically to ejuares@azgfd.gov. In addition, a signed hard copy must be sent via regular mail to: Edwin Juarez, ABCI Coordinator, Arizona Game and Fish Department/WMNG, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ, 85023.
5. We anticipate the announcement of the awards will be made in late July.
6. Note: All information in grant application other than applicant's name will remain confidential during the evaluation process. Once grants are awarded, the applications will become available for public inspection. Trade secrets or other proprietary information will remain confidential even after grants are awarded.

Thank you for your interest in bird conservation in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin Juarez', written in a cursive style.

Edwin Juarez
ABCI Coordinator

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Enclosures

ARIZONA BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Ranking Factors

This call for proposals seeks to allocate funding for projects that encompass the following ranking factors:

- *Project Need/Biological Importance.* Projects that address priority actions identified in the APIF Plan (or secondarily, other existing initiatives); projects that fill important conservation needs by providing information necessary to recover and manage priority species, benefit priority habitats, address imminent threats, prevent species from becoming endangered; projects whose outcomes will resolve significant, documented need, issue, or concern.
- *Project Scope.* Projects with multiple benefits: 1) promote a landscape/ecosystem approach; 2) provide needed information and/or initiate management practices to conserve multiple species of conservation concern, or; 3) achieve multiple resource management objectives (such as habitat protection efforts with both terrestrial and aquatic benefits, etc). All projects must demonstrate tangible benefits to resource management.
- *Project Impact and Timeliness.* Impact: Projects that produce tangible “on-the-ground” benefits in terms of conservation effectiveness and/or in terms of visibility. All projects must demonstrate tangible benefits to resource management. Timeliness: Projects must be ready or near ready to implement. Does the project represent a critical and timely conservation opportunity?
- *Method.* Project proposals should clearly and completely describe need, objectives, expected outcomes, deliverables, and expected benefits. For Management/Habitat Improvement projects: multiple species, rare species, rare habitats, projects that result in direct habitat conservation are preferred; for Research/Inventory/Monitoring projects: outcomes that contribute to adaptive management objectives for species or habitat are preferred; for Outreach/Education projects: project results must be measurable.
- *Partnerships/Coordination.* Projects that encourage multi-partner and multi-agency involvement (e.g. federal, state, local governments, communities, corporations, non-profit organizations, conservation organizations, sporting organizations, private landowners, etc.). Projects that enhance partnerships between and among these groups, and demonstrate support from key stakeholders will be considered high priority.
- *Total Cost.* Projects that demonstrate cost effectiveness and provide matching funding are priorities (however, match is not required).

(AZGFD and the Department refer to the Arizona Game and Fish Department)

Project Application — Coversheet Instructions

(Each Project Application must include a coversheet)

Project Information

Project Title – A brief title describing the project.

AZGFD Region – Specify the AZGFD Region(s) in which the project will occur or apply. Please contact Edwin Juarez (ABCI Coordinator) if you are unsure.

Date Submitted: date application is submitted electronically.

Project Description – write a brief description (≤200 words) of the project including main objectives.

APIF Plan Priority Bird Species or Habitats to benefit (list) – List priority bird species and/or habitats targeted in this project. Priority species and habitats are provided in the APIF Plan. The plan may be obtained at the following site: http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/abc_i_plan.shtml

Priority Action(s) in the APIF Plan (or other existing bird initiative) to be addressed: specify the linkages between the proposed work and the priority actions/recommendations.

Project Category – Select the category that best describes the proposed work (check only one).

Project Funding

ABCI Grant Amount Requested – List amount of ABCI funds requested. Projects must be completed within a year upon receipt of grant award. Multi-year projects are considered, however, each phase (year) of the project must be submitted annually for funding consideration.

Other Cost Share Funds – Briefly list total of other cost-share from each funding source.

Total Project Cost – Total of ABCI funds and all matching/partner funds.

Participant Information

Organization – Provide the name of the applicant's organization.

Applicant – Identify the specific contact person (the person most familiar with the project). Include mailing and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. This individual must be authorized by his or her agency or organization to receive and administer project money.

AZGFD coordination (if any) – The proposal should be coordinated with a representative of AZGFD, preferably the ABCI coordinator or the ABCI regional committee chair. Give name.

Applicant's Signature – Proposal must be signed by the agency or individual(s) that will be responsible for completing the project and administering the funds.

Project Application — Project Details Instructions

(Each Project Application must include the following sections)

Project Need/Biological Importance:

What resource problems will be addressed by this project? What are the anticipated benefits to the wildlife resource?

Project Objectives:

What is to be accomplished during the period of the project pursuant to the stated need.

Examples of specific objectives:

- 1) Improve XXX acres of riparian habitat along XXX Creek.
- 2) Increase nesting habitat for southwestern Willow Flycatchers.
- 3) Increase public knowledge of new Important Bird Area(s).
- 4) Relocate displaced Burrowing Owls into historic range.

Project Strategies:

List specific actions that will be taken to achieve the project objective. Each action statement must:

1. Specify fully what is to be accomplished within the time and funds requested.
2. Identify specific methods or procedures.
3. Specify a recognizable end point and deliverable.
4. Be quantifiable and verifiable.

Examples:

- 1) Build XX feet of livestock fencing to exclude grazing along portion of XXX Creek.
- 2) Plant XX acres of willows along XXX River.
- 3) Develop informational brochure.
- 4) Install burrows and relocate Burrowing Owls.

Project Location:

Provide legal description (township, range, section). Attach a map with project site clearly marked. Include size, in acres, of habitat enhancement project.

Habitat Description:

What are the major vegetative types and associations? Include average elevation.

Land Ownership at Project Site:

Identify land ownership at project site. Please state specifically if Private Property and provide landowner's name. If private property, is there a Stewardship Agreement between the landowner and the Department? Private property projects may require a Stewardship Agreement and may also be eligible to receive funding from the Landowner Incentive Program or other Farm Bill programs.

Project Monitoring Plan (if applicable):

If applicable, identify what monitoring program exists or will be implemented to assess and quantify the results achieved by the project. Include both short term and long term monitoring.

Project Maintenance (if applicable):

If needed, who will provide maintenance for this project?

Budget

Identify specifically how ABCI funds will be used. Also include itemized break down of cost share funding. If cost for mileage is itemized, the reimbursement rate for mileage **cannot** exceed the State of Arizona's reimbursement rate in effect when proposal is submitted (currently 44.5 cents per mile).

List all matching funds and their sources (e.g. cash, in-kind and volunteer labor). Volunteer unpaid services provided to AZGFD by an individual (a grantee) should be valued at the pay for similar work in the Department. If the services are something AZGFD does not perform, then use minimum wage or seek private market value of the work (provide thorough documentation). Original cost of an existing project does not qualify as match.

Implementation Schedule – List month and year project is expected to be initiated and completed, as well as pertinent details. Projects must be completed within a year upon receipt of grant award. Multi-year projects are considered, however, each phase (year) of the project must be submitted annually for funding consideration, with no guarantee of availability of funding.

Partnerships/Coordination:

List partners and describe their anticipated participation. List cooperators who may provide logistic support, materials, equipment, or labor.

Final Report to be filed by whom: Who is responsible for the submitting the project's Final Report? If other than project applicant, include contact information.

Submitting Project Application

Application must be submitted electronically to ejuares@azgfd.gov by **18 June 2007**, and a signed hard copy sent via regular mail to:

Edwin Juarez
ABCI Coordinator
Nongame Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023-4399

Grant Award

Grants will typically be distributed in the following manner:

- 50% upon signing of the Collection Agreement and submittal of a detailed Work Plan approved by the AZGFD.
- 25% upon submittal, and acceptance from the AZGFD of a Progress Report.
- 25% on receipt and acceptance from the AZGFD, of a Final Report no later than June 1, 2007.